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AUTHOR Goldberg, B.; Sorensen, M.
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ABSTRACT

Services provided by the library at Herlev Hospital, Copenhagen, Denmark, are discussed, including patient and personnel lending, exhibitions, films, nursing school library, medical library, and music lending. (RAO)

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Music Lending and Listening in Hospitals with Particular Reference to the Services Offered at Herlev Hospital, Copenhagen.

by

B. GØLDBERG
Chief Librarian
Herlev Hospital
Copenhagen, Denmark

and

M. SØRENSEN
Music Librarian
Herlev Hospital
Copenhagen, Denmark

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Music Lending and Listening in Hospitals with Particular Reference to the Services Offered at Herlev Hospital, Copenhagen.

he Law and ospital Library ervices

Library service in hospitals is not compulsory in Denmark. The local authorities responsible for hospital services in the respective counties are free to establish libraries or library services at the hospitals.

The Library Act of 1964 does, however, mention that public libraries in Denmark should be available to any person living in the country and this makes it possible to establish libraries in factories or institutions such as hospitals, old people's homes and prisons.

A County/Municipal agreement from 1977 suggests provisions for the standard of library service at hospitals. This agreement only deals with library services to the patients, and it emphasizes that no decision has been taken on the extent of the service. Should the library, for example, include other media than books ? It also mentions that service to the staff is to be dealt with by the individual county.

Since the 'thirties there has been a tradition for library services at hospitals and in 1979, 105 out of a total of 115 are provided with this service. The level of the service is very uneven and this aspect of Danish library service still leaves much to be achieved.

he library at erlev Hospital

The library at Herlev Hospital, which was established in 1976, has its own agreement between the County and the Municipality. This is somewhat more extensive than the standard agreement since it mentions service to the staff, service to the nursing school and the running of a separate medical library extension to cover the need for a local research facility. In fact, the library is responsible for all library functions at the hospital.

rganization

The library at Herlev Hospital is organized as a branch of the local public library. The running of the library thus gets some of the expenses refunded. And the local public library, too, has a function as main library for the hospital library and gives this access to a larger stock.

However, the library at the hospital functions very independently concerning selection and processing of books and other materials.

ctivities:
atients

The primary activity is service to the patients who are visited twice a week by the librarian with a book trolley.

The library is open on week-days from 10 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. The newspaper and periodical section is always open and contains a small selection of books - a sort of self-service section - where books may be borrowed in the evening and at the weekend when the library is closed.

When the librarian visits the wards, patients who are not confined to bed are invited to visit the library. The library has, of course, far more books than can be found on the book trolley. We also believe that a visit in the friendly and relaxed surroundings of the library is valuable in the rehabilitation of the patients as the library represents aspects of life outside the hospital.

Patients can borrow books, cassettte tape-recorders, talking-books on cassette as well as music cassette tapes and reading aids.

The Hospital
Personnel

The library also functions as a regular public library for the hospital personnel. This is greatly appreciated by the personnel who are making increasing use of this facility. At the same time, this benefits the service, which is naturally very dependent on the good-will of the hospital personnel.

hildren

The hospital does not have a children's ward. However, the hospital's nursery school visits the library regularly, and the personnel use the library to borrow books for their small children.

xhibitions

The library arranges frequent exhibitions in the front hall of the hospital. Mostly art exhibitions, but also exhibitions on subjects of current interest.

ilms

Every fortnight there are film arrangements for the patients.

he County's ursing School

Herlev Hospital, which is one of the newest and most modern hospitals in Denmark, also has a nursing school which trains nurses, nursing assistants and radiologists in the County of Copenhagen. The library has a consultative function and processes the books which are bought for the library in the nursing school. This gives the library an insight to the needs of the personnel, and the students at the school also have an opportunity to learn about the library's services to the patients.

edical Library

The library activity at the hospital also includes a separate library extension with medical periodicals, bibliographies, reference and other medical books. The medical library is always open. It is primarily used by the medical staff, but all other hospital employees and patients are welcome. The medical library also purchases and processes all medical books for the various hospital departments.

The staff of the medical library has undergone a special training for this work.

Music in the Hospital Libraries

he Law and usic

The Public Libraries Act of 1964 states: "the purpose of the public libraries is to promote information, education and cultural activity by the provision of books and other suitable material, free of charge".

"Other suitable material" includes gramophone records, films, tapes, slides, reproductions, plus the equipment, which makes it possible to use the material. "Gramophone records

and tapes" also include literary and documentary records and tapes.

Audio-Visual rial in the ary at ev Hospital

The library at Herlev Hospital has several types of audio-visual material for the patients/hospital staff, for example, gramophone records, music cassettes, talking books, tape-recorders with headphones and a small collection of posters.

Staff's use he Music ary

The tape/record library has been a great success with the personnel, and many of them only borrow tapes or records. The children attending the hospital's nursery school, the hospital staff and ambulatory patients, are all frequent visitors to the music section of the library, where they can sit in comfort and listen to music.

Music cetttes

Music cassettes appeal to more patients than do talking books because music requires less concentration, and both illness and medication, together with the constant interruptions necessitated by hospital routines naturally tend to reduce concentration.

It is natural to supply music requirements with music cassettes rather than gramophone records; they are handier, especially for the disabled, the blind and patients suffering from other handicaps, and a tape-recorder is much easier to operate than a gramophone.

Patient ips

1) "Normal" patients.
2) The blind and partially sighted.
3) Babies in incubators. This stimulation satisfies the babies and makes them livelier.
4) Music in the recovery rooms and intensive-care units in neuro-surgical departments.
5) Music for expectant mothers. Relaxation classes.
6) Rehabilitation of, for example, victims of traffic accidents.
7) Renal dialysis patients.
8) Terminal cases.

ending Practice When the librarian visits the wards, the patients can ask for tapes, a tape-recorder and headphones. If a patient does not know the library's collection of tapes, the librarian provides him/her with a card catalogue covering the desired genre.

he Selection f Music The same criteria should be applied to the selection of audio-visual media as to the selection of books, but this should preclude beat music and light music. These two genres are widely used in the public library and popularity is often applied as a criterion for the selection of music.

uture possibi-ities Herlev Hospital has not yet been completed. In a few years time the library will move to the 25th floor - the top floor of the hospital. This floor is planned as a recreation area with a wide variety of activities for the patients.

With regard to music lending and listening in hospitals in general, we hope in the future to be able to offer a service equal to the book-lending service. Our experience is that music is just as popular as books, and can have a beneficial effect on patients in the stressed conditions of hospital life.